

**Iowa Status**

uncommon; native

**Iowa Range**

eastern half of Iowa and Clay County

**Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

**fringed gentian**

*Gentianopsis crinita*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering  
plants

**Features**

Fringed gentian grows up to 2 1/2 feet tall. The leaves are tear drop-shaped and without a stock. They are up to two inches long and one inch wide. The flower buds are twisted and untwist as the flower opens. The flowers have four blue petals with fringes on the top and part way down the sides. They are up to two inches long and a single plant can have up to 100 flowers.

**Natural History**

Fringed gentian grows in moist and wet prairies, wet meadows, and fens. In Iowa this species is most often found in fens. It flowers from mid-August to early October. This plant can be an annual or a biennial. It is found in the north-central and northeast parts of the state and lake areas, where it is uncommon.

**Habitats**

wet prairies and fens